



LiteracyBC

Fall 1998 Bulletin

November 1998

Volume 4, Number 5

AGM Celebrates a Year of Achievements

Literacy B.C. board, staff, members and special guests marked what President Paul Gallagher called "a year of celebration and achievements" at our 8th annual general meeting in Vancouver on October 30.

There were many successes to celebrate. Kate Nesbitt and Kelly Sinclair were recognized for overcoming barriers to improving their literacy skills. Kate was presented with the 1998 Co-operators Learner Achievement Award and Kelly was recognized as this year's B.C. winner of the Canada Post Flight for Freedom Individual Literacy Achievement Award. Literacy B.C. was also acknowledged as the provincial winner of the Flight for Freedom Literacy Leadership Award.

Special guest Andrew Petter, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, delivered the keynote speech and later mingled with board members and guests at a reception.

The Minister referred to his government's move on July 1 to remove tuition fees for ABE programs in all post-secondary institutions. He said adults around the province have told him they couldn't be in ABE programs without this initiative.

"The message we're hearing back is that participation rates are up" he said. "B.C. now



(l to r) Kate Nesbitt, Andrew Petter, Paul Gallagher and Kelly Sinclair at our AGM

has the most comprehensive and affordable ABE system in the country."

Minister Petter said that, "B.C. is starting to gain recognition as an education province. In part because of the work of organizations like yours, we're a province that recognizes the importance, the centrality, of education." He mentioned the Youth Community Action Program, which allows students to gain credits toward future tuition.

The Minister reminded the audience of how much has changed in education in the last 100 years. "Yesterday's frills have become basic today. A post-secondary education -- including technical and other kinds of training -- is now as basic as a high school education was a century ago."

Meet your Literacy B.C. Board Members for 1998-99

Camosun - MELANIE AUSTIN

Melanie has 20 years experience in literacy and has been Executive Director of the Victoria READ Society since 1990. Melanie has served as our Treasurer for the last three years.

Capilano - PAUL GALLAGHER

Paul has been the President of Literacy B.C. for the past year. He has served as President of both Capilano and Vancouver Community Colleges. He currently operates Gallagher and Associates, which provides brokered educational consulting and training services to the public and private sectors.

Cariboo - JAN SEEDHOUSE

Jan is the B.C. Interior Field Services Coordinator for Laubach Literacy of Canada. She is a member of the B.C. Library Association's Literacy Interest Group.

East Kootenay - MARNIE CROWE

Marnie is an instructor in adult basic education at the College of the Rockies. She also works for the Ktunaxa Independent School system and for the Open Learning Agency.

Fraser Valley - VICKI GRIEVE

Vicki is a founding member of the Chilliwack Family Literacy Council and involved in the region's Computers for Family Literacy program. Vicki developed the literacy tutor certificate program for the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV). She is a coordinator and instructor in this program, and Project Coordinator, College and Career Prep Department at UCFV.

Greater Vancouver - VICKI RENNER

Vicki is President of the Community Skills Centres (CSC) Consortium of British Columbia and Manager of the New Westminster CSC. She lives in Langley.

Malaspina - DAVID MODDLE

David is the owner of LifeWorks! Consulting Inc. in Nanaimo, a company that specializes in employment services. A key part of his work is helping people who face barriers to employment. David is past president of Literacy Nanaimo.

New Caledonia - GLORIA OLAFSON

Gloria lives in Fraser Lake, a small community 200 miles west of Prince George, where she is an instructor at the Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre. She is also a founding member of the Nechako Literacy Society.

North Island - INGRID BRAATHEN

Ingrid has been a learner representative on the board for the past three years and is very active in promoting literacy. She is co-author of the Walk for Literacy book, a past board member of the Adult Learning Centre in Courtenay, and manages the local Walk for Literacy each year in that community.

Northern Lights - ALAN TREMAYNE

Alan is the First Nations Education Coordinator of Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek. He has worked in curriculum development and as an educational consultant with various school districts in developing inclusive models of education. A Metis, Alan is also involved with the Metis National Council.

Okanagan - DONNA STEWART

Donna currently works at Okanagan University College (OUC) Vernon as Coordinator of the Volunteer Tutoring Program, Supervisor of Disability Services, and Tutor for Disability Services. Donna trained in the Orton Gillingham method of teaching students with learning disabilities and is part of a team at OUC that promotes a variety of teaching materials to instruct learning disabled adults.

1998-99 Board Members

Selkirk - TRISH HARRISON

Trish has been on the board for the past three years. An ABE instructor at Selkirk College, Trish is chairperson of Project Literacy West Kootenay, Trail Literacy Coordinator, and Family Literacy Coordinator with the Community Planning and Piloting for Family Literacy project in Trail.

Member at Large - BONNIE SLOAT

Bonnie is a mother and grandmother who lives in Aldergrove. She upgraded her education by enrolling in the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 2000 cook literacy course where her interest in literacy and ABE was developed. This is her first year on our board.

Member at Large - BETTY CARTER

Betty is an adult basic education student at Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus (KEC) and President of the KEC Student Association. She joins the Board this year.

1998-99 Executive

President - Paul Gallagher
Vice-President - Alan Tremayne
Treasurer - Melanie Austin
Secretary - Jan Seedhouse
Learner Representatives -
Ingrid Braathen and Bonnie Sloat

*Good-bye and a big thank you to
these retiring board members...*

Barbara Bate
Corey Blades
Carol Bossio
Alan Dolman
Brenda Lee Giles

*"Your work has been the foundation
for the many successes to come."*

Paul Gallagher, President

Learner Award Winner at our AGM



Kate Nesbitt of Smithers was presented with the 1998 Co-operators Learner Achievement Award by Peter Podovnikoff, CEO, Delta Credit Union.

This annual award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C.

In thanking The Co-operators, Kate said, "Because of the work of Literacy B.C. and particularly, the literacy program I attend in Smithers, people have an opportunity to learn, to achieve and to get self-esteem. I will go on to write the GED, and I will pass it."



\$\$ for Family Literacy

In 1997, ABC CANADA and the Canada Post Corporation partnered to raise funds for family literacy programs by creating and marketing a special family literacy postage stamp. Funds raised by the campaign are being distributed by provincial literacy coalitions.

Literacy B.C. has developed the guidelines and application form for distribution to the family literacy field in B.C. The total amount allocated to B.C. will be distributed evenly among qualified applicants. If your organization provides a distinct family literacy program and has been in operation for a year or more, you may be eligible.

The deadline for applications is December 1, 1998. If you have not received an application form, and wish to apply, call us at 1-800-663-1293 toll free.

Annual Report

Literacy B.C.'s 1997-98 Annual Report is mailed to all members with this Newsletter.

It's Time Again for Learners Talking to Learners

You are invited to hold a Learner Event. Any group of adult learners may apply.

Learner Events give students a chance to plan events, to talk about issues they think are important and experiences they have in common. The Learner Events can also be used to let other people know about the problems that many adults have with reading and writing and tell them about the programs that can help them.

The deadline for applications is
November 27, 1998.

Call Literacy B.C. at 1-800-663-1293 for an application form.

For more information on Learner Events, call Joyce Cameron at (604) 439-7714.

Who We Are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Human Resources Development Canada, The National Literacy Secretariat; memberships and donations.

Here's how you can reach us:

Literacy B.C.

601 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free in B.C.
(604) 684-0624 in the Lower Mainland

Fax: (604) 684-8520

Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca

WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.